

*Saint Louis Audubon*

*Bulletin*

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Feb. - Mar. 1955

## *Cajun Country*

with

ALFRED M. BAILEY

One of the year's outstanding events will take place on Monday, February 7 at the Third Baptist Church, at 8:00 p.m., when Alfred M. Bailey will appear as lecturer with a color movie entitled "CAJUN COUNTRY".

In the alligator-bayed bayous and the moss-hung live oak country of southern Louisiana, where descendants of the Acadians (Cajuns) have their own distinctive language, customs and way of life, tremendous concentrations of birds and other wildlife share with them their glorious "Cajun Country". Dr. Alfred M. Bailey, distinguished director of the Denver Natural History Museum, presents in color film the captivating land of Evangeline.

Cajun country is a fascinating world of its own, where native Americans are unable to speak their own tongue; where "French" would be difficult for even a Frenchman to understand. Their ancestors, banished from their chosen Nova Scotia, have given today's Cajuns a treasured heritage in a sunny, thriving land that their persecutors would now look upon with envy. Their marshes teem with wildlife. Their farms are modest and pleasant. From tabasco sauce factories to heron sanctuaries, their way of life is that of the South where the living is easy and its pace in keeping.

Dr. Bailey lived among the Cajun people for three years, during which time he was privileged to study and photograph the extensive marsh areas bordering the Gulf of Mexico. He visited the great Rainey Audubon Sanctuary with its hordes of wild geese; travelled by marsh-buggy to round up alligators in their hidden haunts; participated in a cattle round-up; photographed Audubon Park and other facets of famed New Orleans; flew to Errol Island, home of the laughing gull and colonized by thousands of Cabot and royal terns; whiled away joyful hours at beautiful Chenier au Tigre, an oak grown ridge along the shores of the gulf, where the migrants coming northward finally reach land after their long over-water journey.

Dr. Alfred M. Bailey is one of the world's foremost naturalists. He is also one of the more capable administrators in the field of natural science, being Director of the Denver Museum of Natural History since 1936 where he has made that institution an example for other cities to follow.

Dr. Bailey is author of "Birds of Arctic Alaska", and has written extensively for many magazines including *Frontier*, *Nature*, *National Geographic*, *Condor*, *Auk*, *Wilson Bulletin* and others. He has visited five continents and recently returned from a forty thousand mile expedition to Wake and Midway Islands, to Canton, the Fiji Islands, New Zealand and Australia. His work in the past years has taken him to the Hawaiian Islands, Siberia, Arctic and Southeastern Alaska, Europe, the Egyptian Sudan and with the famous bird artist, Louis Agassiz, to Abyssinia.



# WELCOME NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE GARDEN CLUBS

By CONNIE HATH

In April 1954, the National Council of State Garden Clubs accepted the offer of a gift of land within the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis as a site for a permanent home. Eight American cities issued invitations, but the St. Louis offer was the only one which fully met the requirements . . . "it shall not be on either sea, or at either border . . . it must be a city with adequate hotel facilities . . . a city with cultural advantages — a museum, a symphony orchestra, a civic opera . . . a city having many parks . . .".

The permanent home for this organization of 10,000 clubs, 350,000 members from 43 states, will be located on a plot of ground facing Magnolia Avenue. At today's values in St. Louis this land could not be duplicated for \$100,000, and to further enhance the value, the Missouri Botanical Garden has recently been declared a bird sanctuary.

The building designed by Mr. Frederick Dunn of St. Louis will be pink marble with a long facade, classic in design. The rear of the building will be entirely glass so that the vistas of the garden may be brought into the house. For the present there will be one large room; four spacious offices; a powder room; a coat room; a lavatory for men guests; an adequate serving pantry; an enclosed patio — and on the lower level a terrace room. The grand salon will have a movable partition so that it will lend itself to many daily uses.

The erection of this home, costing approximately \$300,000 is being made possible by voluntary contribution from garden clubs, allied organizations and individuals from all parts of the United States. The response has been great to a message written by Mrs. William J. Walters about "A Piece of Silver" in which she stated:

"Two thousand years ago, a piece of silver was the monetary standard of the civilized world. It was a rich man's gift . . . and in its smallest form, the widows mite. The giving of both have been recorded for all time. Yet, two thousand years ago, as now, it did not matter so much what one gave, but only that one had a share in the giving.

Long ago a man who lived very close to Nature was betrayed for thirty peices of silver. The echo of that dismal deadly counting of thirty pieces of silver, one by one, has rung in the ears of men down through the ages. Perhaps it is to deafen our ears to that echo that, ever since, we have been dropping pieces of silver into the alms box for the less fortunate.

Today the value of a piece of silver is no less great. It is the symbol of the sharing of one's goods and one's self. If you should lose a piece of costume jewelry — if you should lose a precious gem — and it was returned to you, would you give less than folding money to express your gratitude? How much greater are our intangible losses! Was it only yesterday, or the day before, that you lost your piece of mind — the calmness of your innerself — and had it returned to you in your garden? So will you not give a piece of silver, in gratitude, that a Home may be built — a home which will also be a sanctuary for our garden traditions for all times?"

The St. Louis Audubon Society joins with Mr. Shaw as we can imagine him standing at the gate of his Garden saying, "Welcome! Come In!".

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The Society's year is once again drawing to a close. It will soon be time to elect new officers. The Nominating Committee will welcome any suggestions you may have, for Officers or Members of the Board. Contact the Excutive Secretary for name of Chairman of Nominating Committee.

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The AWARD COMMITTEE is in action. If you wish to suggest the name of any member for an Award, send the name, address and the reason, to the Executive Secretary.



# TIP O' THE MITTEN

with

OLIN SEWALL PETTINGILL, Jr.

Few of us have had the opportunity of seeing the fascinatingly mysterious Kirtland's Warbler but we will be afforded the next best when Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. brings us the film "TIP O' THE MITTEN" on Friday March 4th., at The Third Baptist Church at 8:00 p.m.

The northern tip of the mitten-shaped lower peninsula of Michigan with its magnificent forests, lush bogs and marshes, blue lakes, clear streams and verdant farmlands is the setting of Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill's unique film. Here at the University of Michigan Biological Station - the world's largest summer school for field biology - the film unfolds an absorbing story of scientific study and discovery.

Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. was born in Maine, graduated from Bowdoin College and received his Ph. D. degree in ornithology from Cornell University. His home is now in Wayne, Maine. Countless students have been inspired to become outstanding ornithologists and conservationists under his tutelage as Associate Professor of Zoology at Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota and the University of Michigan Biological Station.

Dr. Pettingill is a nationally known ornithologist. His "Laboratory and Field Manual of Ornithology" is used in some 100 colleges and universities in 42 states and is generally considered the leading ornithology textbook. He has served as an officer of both the American Ornithologists' Union and the Wilson Ornithological Club. He is author of "A Guide to Bird Finding", two volumes, East and West, which have become commonly known as Baedekers of the out-of-doors.

For two years Dr. Pettingill engaged in the Whooping Crane research project ranging from Texas to northern Canada. And he was co-leader of the Cornell University-Carleton College Ornithological Expedition to Mexico.

As a wildlife photographer Dr. Pettingill is well known. In 1931 he was photographer on the Carnegie Museum Expedition to Hudson Bay, bringing back the first photographs of a number of birds of the North Country. In 1944 he was commissioned to photograph the abundant wildlife of the National Audubon Society sanctuaries in Texas. Many of Dr. Pettingill's wildlife films have been used in making some of the successful Walt Disney nature movies and in 1953 he was sent to the Falkland Islands by Disney to make a documentary on penguins.

Since 1939 Dr. Pettingill has lectured to approximately a half million people in the United States and Canada. To obtain the pictures which he uses in his lectures he has traveled a hundred thousand miles and has exposed nearly 25 miles of film.

"Tip o' the Mitten" is an album of superb outdoor wildlife photography as well as a top-notch documentary film. A short-tailed shrew on a hunting foray . . . the birth of red-backed salamanders . . . the curious antics of two strange insects, the backswimmer and mantisped . . . the homelife of the jack-pine warbler, one of the rarest of all birds . . . the brook stickleback and its remarkable bird-like nest . . . intimate closeups of the black widow spider, a flying squirrel family, muskrat, black tern, sparrow hawk, black-billed cuckoo and rose-breasted grosbeak . . . lichens, mushrooms, ferns and flowering plants . . . the Falls of the Taquamenon, the rugged shore of Lake Superior and the giant Sleeping Bear Dune. These are a few of the episodes, portraits and scenic features, all in gorgeous natural color.



## CHRISTMAS CENSUS

The annual Christmas Census at Rankin was attended by about 20 members who found a beautiful day and good companionship made up for a relatively poor list. Good bird cover and some 100,000 boys scouts are not completely compatible, however we who have enjoyed many wonderful days on this tract are convinced it is playing a wonderful new role in the conservation education of these boys, who if it were not for these and similar areas would never know the out-of-doors.

\* \* \* \* \*

About forty participated in the annual Christmas Census at The Busch Area sponsored by the Webster Groves Nature Study Society. Some new National records were established in total numbers of certain species. Forty-four Leconte's Sparrows was more than five times the largest total of these sparrows ever before reported any place in the United States. New records were also established for tree sparrows and red-bellied woodpeckers.

\* \* \* \* \*

A clipping from the Little Rock, Arkansas Gazette of Sunday, January 2, tells the story of the Christmas Census in that area and features our good members and former St. Louisans, Mr. and Mrs. Myron Northrup. The paper has several pictures of the Northrups and other members of the Little Rock Club in the field on the census day.

## COMING EVENTS

The Screen Tour of February 7 has also been designated as "Loyalty Night". At that time we will have the opportunity of showing our appreciation of the fine work the Society is doing in its mission of the furtherance of conservation. Awards to schools, scholarships to worthy individuals, recognition of outstanding conservation achievements, these and many more activities are undertaken by our Society.

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On Friday March 4, in addition to the showing of "Tip O' the Mitten" by Olin Pettingill, we will have Award Night. At that time a club or organization for youngsters who have done an outstanding conservation job will be selected for recognition and a person who is deemed deserving will receive a scholarship to one of the Audubon Camps.

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The first of the Spring Field Trips will be held at The Arboretum, Gray Summit, on April 9. Louis Brenner on the Staff at the Arboretum will be the leader. This area has been lucrative insofar as bird finding is considered and this trip should be well attended. The magnificent stand of Jonquills will cooperate and be at their best at this season, (we hope).

\* \* \* \* \*

April 16 and 17 will see something new in St. Louis Audubon Society activities as an overnight trip to Henderson, Kentucky, has been planned. Henderson is the scene of "Audubon State Park" and with its two lakes and many foot trails through a thick forest of virgin hardwood trees, ferns and wildflowers lies within a major migration route. Audubon Memorial Museum contains a large collection of the original art mementos of the Audubon family. There are only a limited number of cabins in the park available. Many motels may be found in Henderson, Ky., and in nearby Evansville, Indiana. Write for reservations. From East St. Louis take Highway 460 to Evansville, Indiana, and 41 south to park which is four miles north of Henderson, near the confluence of the Green and Ohio Rivers. (About 170 miles).

\* \* \* \* \*

Sunday, April 24, will see a repeat of one of the Society's most successful affairs, "The Rice Estate Picnic". Those who have visited this wonderland of native spring flowers will once again enjoy one of the finest experiences of their



lives. If you have been unable to attend so far, please save this date. Directions: Highway 21 (Tesson Ferry) to Jefferson County Highway M, left to Antonio (2 mi.), right on "Black Top Drive" to top of Goldman Hill (4½ mi.) where signs will lead you to left and to Rice Lodge.

**Perhaps Your Picture is Among Those Shown  
At the Last Rice Estate Outing!**



*This Quartet Explored the Entire Estate*



*Butterfly Brigade*



*We Need a Rest!*

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Saturday April 23 and 30 will bring the "Beginners" Field Trips at Shaws Garden under the patient direction of Camille and Lois Wamhoff. Meet at main Gate, 2315 Tower Grove, bring a pair of field glasses if you can, and prepare to learn some of our more common birds. The time 8:00 a.m.

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Forest Park Bird Walks will be held on April 17 and 21, May 1, 8, and 15. Once again Martin Schweig has assumed the responsibility of directing these, now nationally famous bird walks. In order to do a good job he needs leaders. Those capable should not hesitate in contacting him.

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The Annual Spring Census will be held on May 1st. Bird independently or organize your own groups. Report your list to Dave Jones, WO 2-0906, count species not individuals. Join in this wonderfully, mad scramble; the spirit of list making as a sport reaches its highest on this day.



## AUDUBON TOURS FROM WEST PALM BEACH

John H. Baker, president of the National Audubon Society, announced this week that the Society will originate its well-known wildlife tours from West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale this season.

The first two-day tour in the winter series from West Palm Beach will leave Thursday, January 13; and from Fort Lauderdale on Thursday, January 20. Tours will depart from and return to the George Washington Hotel in West Palm Beach and the Governor's Club Hotel in Fort Lauderdale. There will be a lapse of one day between each two-day tour, and the schedule will run through April.

Sandy Sprunt, son of Alex Sprunt, Jr., who for 15 years has conducted the Society's tours from Okeechobee City as a base, will be the leader of the tours from West Palm Beach. He has had experience with the Society as a seasonal sanctuary warden, as an assistant leader of the wildlife tours into the Everglades Park area from Miami, as instructor in the subject of birds at the Audubon Camp of California, and as assistant Pacific Coast representative. A native South Carolinian, trained at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in wildlife management, Mr. Sprunt has spent much time studying the fauna and flora of Florida.

William Wylie will lead the tours from Fort Lauderdale. For the past two seasons Mr. Wylie has been an assistant leader of the Audubon Wildlife Tours out of Miami and Okeechobee City. He has served as a sanctuary warden for the Society in Tampa Bay and last summer was assistant to the director of the Audubon Center of Connecticut. His photograph is among those featured in an article about the National Audubon Society in the November issue of National Geographic Magazine.

Each scheduled tour will go to the southern shores of Lake Okeechobee, traversing a rich agricultural region specializing in the growing of sugar, beans, and other crops, and well stocked with cattle. The cattle egret, a newcomer to our continent, and the smooth-billed ani, a tropical species that in recent years has become resident at and near Clewiston, will be observed.

Tour parties will have an opportunity to see much of the wildlife inhabiting the Okeechobee marshes, with good chances to spot the increasingly rare Everglade kite, now largely confined in North America to a small nesting colony in the southwestern portion of Lake Okeechobee.

"The West Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce has kindly agreed," said Mr. Baker, "to handle local inquiries and reservations. In Fort Lauderdale reservations may be made with Mrs. Cary Dunn at the Governor's Club Hotel. They may also be made directly with the Miami office of the National Audubon Society at 13 McAllister Arcade.

As he has done for the past 15 years, Alex Sprunt, Jr. will again conduct the Audubon Wildlife Tours from Okeechobee City. These start January 11 and run through April 30. Tours into the Everglades National Park from Miami will continue through April 30.

The fee per person for participating in the non-profit two-day Tours is \$25.00, not including board and lodging. Instruction sheets covering such matters as desirable clothing to wear or bring, and rates for lodging accommodations, are promptly mailed to all those who make definite reservations.

## AUDUBON NATURE PROGRAM

A long-range program of supplying the public with accurate and interest-generating monthly booklets on nature and conservation subjects has been launched by the National Audubon Society and Nelson Doubleday, Inc.

Each month the combined resources of the two organizations produce a booklet and a set of 30 or more reproductions of color photographs that may easily be inserted in the booklet.

A recent publication in the series was titled "Birds of Prey" and was prepared by Kenneth D. Morrison, Editor of Audubon Magazine. It traces the growing public awareness of the important roles played by hawks, owls, eagles, etc., in the over-all economy of nature and concludes with individual accounts of the birds pictured in the 33 color prints that accompany the booklet.



The National Audubon Society stated that the more than 150,000 persons who now receive the Audubon Nature Program booklets each month are building valuable libraries of authentic information about the out-of-doors. Each author is an authority in his field and the text is carefully checked for scientific accuracy. The subject matter is presented in an easily-readable style that permits it to be shared by entire families.

Recent Nature Program booklets have covered such diverse subjects as Life in a Woodland Pond, Camouflage in Nature, Butterflies and Moths, Nature's Architects, and Life in Shallow Sea Water.

The Society believes that the response to the Audubon Nature Program reflects the rapidly growing public interest in nature and conservation and that it indicates the need for materials that will help both young and old to understand and enjoy the out-of-doors. Anyone may participate in the program, which has no relation to membership in the National Audubon Society.

Most of the color prints that accompany the Nature Program booklets are from original transparencies obtained from the photo library of the National Audubon Society. Nearly one thousand wildlife photographers in all parts of North America send their outstanding photographs to this library, which acts as a clearing house and agency.

Further details about the monthly booklets and prints may be obtained by addressing C. Earl Cooley, Director, Nelson Doubleday Nature Program, 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

## SPECIAL EVENT

On Friday March 25 Audubon members will be privileged to enjoy a special treat when our Society joins forces with the Missouri Conservation Commission as co-sponsors for the showing of the Commission's newest wildlife film, "The Life History of the Cotton-Tail Rabbit". Mr. Charles Schwartz, nationally famous for "Bob White Through the Year", and who filmed this newest one, will be our guest as narrator.

The showing will be at Third Baptist Church at 8:15 P.M. This film will be open not only to our own members but to all those who receive the Conservationist, so bring your friends. The date - Friday, March 25.

### ST. LOUIS AUDUBON BULLETIN

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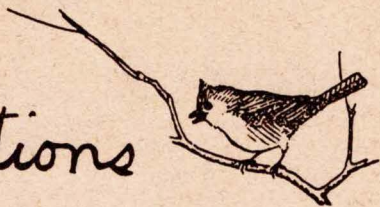
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# Observations

J. Earl Comfort



In the St. Louis area the weather made the news headlines with the 3rd straight drought year succeeding in drying up most of the marshes and lakes that escaped during the preceding 2 scant moisture years. Several days in July broke all previous heat records. Families most affected, both in the migration and the nesting season, were the herons and their allies and shorebirds. The Fall migration of ducks was far below par. The shorebirds gave us our poorest listing year in modern recording with several species failing to show up in either the Spring or Fall migration reports.

Most exciting find was a Hudsonian curlew discovered in St. Charles Co. in June by P. Bruce Dowling. A snowy owl was found in this County in Dec., a red crossbill in this month in St. Louis Co. and a prairie falcon in St. Charles Co. in Jan. This county also yielded Smith's longspurs in April and a fall yellow rail which a bird dog found during a field trail. The specimen is now in the possession of Rex Conyers, Science teacher at U. City High.

There were 270 species recorded as compared to 275 in 1953. In spite of the generally poor bird listing year the total of 14 individuals topping 200 species was a record. Highest list was 254.

Ten birds generally considered most unusual from a rarity standpoint were Hudsonian curlew, Smith's longspur, prairie falcon, glaucous gull, snowy owl, yellow rail, American scoter duck, red crossbill, golden eagle and white-fronted goose.

As in past winters some 250,000 crows crowded each evening into a roost on the Mississippi River near the Chain of Rocks Park.

An initial breeding bird census was taken at the August A. Busch Memorial Wildlife Management Area near Weldon Springs.

A conservation federation was organized by the various nature and related organizations of the area to serve the mid-west.

A monthly bird count was made at the Busch Wildlife Area.

Christmas bird counts were made at the Beaumont Scout Reservation (formerly Ranken Area), Busch Area and in St. Charles County.

Dave and Lance Jones started 1955 with an enviable find of 2 whitewinged crossbills at Gray's Summit on January 3rd.

The 1955 Busch Christmas count of January 2 yielded 69 species.

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